with in accordance with law by the Central / State Governments within their respective spheres of jurisdiction.

(c) to (e) The Government have enacted various labour laws to protect the workers including those working in non-governmental organizations from exploitation, like the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Personal Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1963, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 etc. Most of these Acts relating to wages, social security and welfare are also applicable to the labourers engaged in the agriculture sector. An adequate industrial relations machinery and disputes resolution mechanism by way of labour courts and industrial tribunals is already in existence to safeguard the interest of the labourers.

Number of unemployed persons

†549. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed persons at present in the country together-with the number of unemployed engineers, doctors, graduate and technical persons separately;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government would provide employment to ten crore people despite the decreasing employment opportunities and despite of increasing unemployment in the country day by day; and

(c) if so, by when and in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The number of jobseekers, all the whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges as on June, 1999 was of the order of 405.9 lakh. The number of job seekers with graduate and post graduate qualifications including technical persons was of the order of 50.8 lakh out of which 1.7 lakh and 37.9 thousand belonged to engineering and medicines streams respectively.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) A Special Group has been set up by the Planning Commission to suggest measures to generate one crore employment opportunities during each year of the Tenth Five Year plan.

Compensation payable to workers

550. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of compensation payable to the workers under the Workmen's Compensation Act in the case of death and permanent total disability;

(b) whether the minimum amount of compensation is likely to be raised in the case of death and permanent total disability;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Labour and Welfare, the Workmen's Compensation Act has been amended with effect from 8.12.2000 wherein the minimum rate of compensation for permanent total disablement and death have been fixed at Rs. 90,000/- and Rs. 80,000/- respectively, as against the previous rates of Rs. 60,000/- and Rs. 50,000/- respectively. The maximum amount of compensation can go up to Rs. 5,48,496/- for permanent total disablement and upto Rs. 4,57,080/- for death.

Need for labour reforms

551. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, at the meeting of the Council of Trade and Industry held in New Delhi on September 7, 2001, stressed on the need for speedy labour reforms;

(b) if so, the objectives contemplated for such labour reforms and in what precise context and background these observations were made; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) In the context of legislative actions required for the economic reforms, the Hon'ble Prime Minister at the meeting of the Council on Trade and Industry held on 7th September, 2001 assured initiation of labour